THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The entire amount of rent, electricity and sweeping charges in respect of single-handed Post Offices, including those located in 'A', 'B' & 'C' Cities is paid by the Department and no amount is paid by the incumbents.

(b) In view of (a) above, there is no discrimination while taking buildings on rent for accommodating post offices. The practice of accommodating office of sub-divisions in their residences was made in view of operative convenience and efficiency considering the nature of their work which involves extensive touring They are compensated with an allowance for keeping these offices in their residences. However, instructions have been issued to provide accommodation for Sub-Divisional Offices in Departmental buildings/departmentally rented buildings, wherever possible. Instructions have also been issued for providing accommodation for Sub Divisional Offices, wherever any construction of Departmental building is planned.

(c) Yes, Sir. Consolidated amount paid for accommodating the office in the residences is reviewed from time to time.

(d) In view of (c) above, this does not arise.

Clerical Assistance for Sub-Divisional Inspector/ Assistant Superintendent

5367. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any provisions to provide clearical assistance to Sub-Divisional Inspector/Assistant Superintendent in Posts and Telegraphs;

(b) if so, why it was withdrawn when the work was not reduced;

(c) whether there is any provision to provide compensation in lieu of excess work done by the Inspectors/Assistant Superintendents in Sub-Divisions; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to provide cleriacal assistance to these officers for excess work or to compensate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINITSRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. The standards for the creation of the Sub Divisional Officers include all type of work. Tentative instructions were issued in February 1990 that clerical assistance may be provided if the offices of Inspectors/ Assistant Superintending are located in the post office from the staff available with the Post Office.

(b) The Instructions of February 1990 were withdrawn in October 1991 as there was no proper assessment of the clerical assistance required as no post office staff was sanctioned for the purpose of providing assistance for the Inspectors/Asstt. Supdts.

(c) No, Sir. There is no provision for compensation in lieu of any excess work.

(d) The work of Sub Divisional Inspectors is of sporadic nature. There is no proposal to compensate them for occasional excess work that they may have either by clerical assistance or by other means.

Inspection by Inspector of Post Offices

5368. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Post Offices is lower in rank than an official of Higher Selection Grade-II in the Department of Posts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Inspectors are compelled to inspect/conduct enquiries against Higher Selection Grade-II officials;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to avoid a lower grade officer inspecting a higher grade officer's office; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor and whether the present system will improve the efficiency of Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) To inspect/conduct the enquiries within his jurisdiction is primary duty of an Inspector of P.O. He also takes up enquiry as directed by

the Divisional Head. However, this can not be termed as compulsion.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

Criteria for accommodation for post offices etc.

5369. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the standard of accommodation prescribed for and that actually being provided now for the office of postal sub-division and single handed post office;

(b) number of sub-divisions circle-wise where Departmental accomodation has not been provided; and

(c) what is the procedure to calculate the rent, electricity and sweeping charges for rented buildings for the offices of sub-divisions and single handed Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The standard of accommodation prescribed for the office of Postal Sub-Division is 180 sq. ft. The standard for single handed Post Offices varies depending on the number of supporting staff and whether it is a delivery or a non-delivery post office. While planning construction of departmental buildings the prescribed norms and being adhered to.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) For single-handed Post Office Buildings, the rent is calculate by a Rent Assessment Committee which considers the plinth area, land valuation, age of building, prevalent market rent, etc. Electricity is paid for as per consumption. Sweeping charges are calculated according to the floor area of the building. Whenever, a Sub-Divisional Office is located in a part of a Govt. building, the rent, electricity, and sweeping charges are calculated for the entire building and not separately for the sub-divisional office.

Statement

Circle-wise details of sub-divisions where departmental accommodation has not been provided

Circle	No. of Sub-Divisions where Departmental Accommodation has not been provided
Andhra Pradesh	84
Assam	28
Bihar	122
Delhi	Nil
Gujarat	10
Haryana	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	13
Jammu & Kashmir	5
Karnataka	72
Kerala	3
Maharashtra	22
Madhya Pradesh	51
North-East	31
Orissa	54
Punjab	4
Rajasthan	35
Tamil Nadu	14
Uttar Pradesh	153
West Bengal	27
Total	717

Non-Delivery of Money Orders

5370. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of money orders are not delivered in rural and tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce theft and tampering in the case of Money Order delivery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) While there are some cases of non-payment and wrong payment of money orders, the number of such cases is not